

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. The Applicants have canceled Claims 1-16 and 18. Claims 17 and 19-25 have been amended. The Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments to Claims 17 and 19-25 prior to further examination. No new matter has been introduced. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating Claim 20 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants have rewritten Claim 20 to include the limitations of base Claim 18. Accordingly, the Applicants believe amended Claim 20 is allowable .

Claims 17, 19, and 21-25 have been amended to depend on Claim 20, and as such are also allowable.

Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

Claims 16-19, and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,381,538 (Robinson et al.). Claims 16 and 18 have been canceled. Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 18. As such, Claim 20 is considered allowable in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

Claims 17, 19, and 21-25 have been amended to depend on Claim 20, and thus are allowable for at least the same reason. The Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 17, 19, and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).


The Applicants herein cancel Claims 1-16 and 18. The Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejection and reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the subject matter of the canceled Claims. The Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the subject matter of the cancelled Claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all Claims (17 and 19-25) after entry of the foregoing amendments are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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